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No. 161

## House of Representatives

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CICILLINE).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 17, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID N. CICILLINE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Assistant Parliamentarian, Kyle T. Jones, offered the following prayer:  
O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need; we humbly beseech Thee to behold, visit, and relieve all Thy sick servants for whom our prayers are desired.

Look upon us all with the eyes of Thy mercy; comfort us with a sense of Thy goodness; preserve us from the temptations of the enemy; and give us patience under our affliction.

In Thy good time, restore us to health and enable us to lead the residue of our lives in Thy fear and to Thy glory, and grant that finally we may dwell with Thee in life everlasting.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NOR-

MAN) will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NORMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO PRODUCE A DUPLICATE ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1812

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to produce a duplicate engrossment of H.R. 1812.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### QUINTIN WASHINGTON

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, good local journalism builds the foundation of a strong community. In the Lowcountry, we are blessed with some fantastic journalists, and I would like to highlight one of them today: Quintin Washington.

Through his independent web series, called Quintin's Close Ups, Quintin has kept his finger on the pulse of our community by doing literally thousands of interviews with the Lowcountry's most influential people. From Presidential candidates to Members of Congress to business officials, you would be hard

pressed to find an elected official in South Carolina who has not sat down with Quintin on camera.

Mr. Speaker, Quintin doesn't do this for money or notoriety, but a genuine love for our community and a desire to make sure that everyone is informed. His interviews are invaluable to the Lowcountry, and we are incredibly grateful for his service.

I know that I speak for everyone in the Lowcountry when I wish Quintin Washington many more years of first-class journalism.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARK SERTICH

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mark Sertich.

A hockey legend and leader in the Duluth community, Mark passed away last month at 99 years old.

Upon graduation from Duluth's Denfeld High School in 1939, Mark served his country in World War II as a radio operator under General Patton. When he returned home from the war, Mark dedicated his time and efforts into growing the game of hockey in the Duluth community because he knew the true power of hockey was its ability to bring people together.

Mark helped build hockey rinks, coached youth teams, and served as the head of the Duluth Amateur Hockey Association—all helping to ensure his passion would pass down to the next generation.

Mark's love for the game of hockey lasted his entire life. In fact, he holds the Guinness World Record as the oldest hockey player, and he continued to play with my former colleagues in the Duluth Fire Department for over 30 years. I had the great honor of playing

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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with Mark during some of those games, and I am thankful to everyone at the Fire Department who made those games possible.

Mr. Speaker, I know that Mark Sertich is already missed by his family, friends, and all of the Duluth community, but I hope they are comforted in knowing that his life as a hockey legend, community leader, World War II veteran and a member of the greatest generation will be long remembered and celebrated.

#### CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

(Ms. ESHOO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to see the gentleman in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, a month ago yesterday, a siege of lightning strikes ignited the CZU Lightning Complex fire in my congressional district, and it is now the 10th most destructive wildfire in California's history.

Over the past month, the fire has destroyed nearly a thousand homes in my district and forced 77,000 of my constituents to evacuate. Thanks to the extraordinary—and I mean, extraordinary work—of thousands of first responders, the fire is now over 90 percent contained.

As we work toward recovery, much of the Bay Area and the entire western United States is still breathing the toxic smoke from these fires, which can have lasting effects and worsen chronic heart and lung diseases and have a terrible impact on children whose lungs are still developing.

Congress should immediately pass my legislation, the Smoke Planning and Research Act to help local governments address this public health crisis.

I am also calling on Congress to pass the WIRED Act to allow States to require wireless companies to deploy infrastructure that is resilient enough to support cell phone networks during disasters.

#### NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize tomorrow, September 18, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

This important day of respect, reflection, and recognition was established through a 1979 proclamation by President Jimmy Carter. To date, more than 83,000 Americans are still missing from World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, and more.

The brave Americans who rose to the occasion to protect and defend our country are the bravest among us.

Many return home. Far too many do not. We owe it to those individuals and to the families of those individuals to continue the search. The pain that these families endure due to uncertainty is unfathomable.

To ensure that these men and women are never forgotten, a flag, that I am sure all of us recognize, was designed in consultation with Evelyn Grubb, wife of an Air Force POW, and Mary Helen Hoff, wife of a Navy man deemed missing in action.

Today, that flag is displayed in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, serving as a reminder that we must continue our work on behalf of military families and continue the search for our POW/MIA servicemembers.

#### HEROES ACT FOR THE PEOPLE

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, nearly 200,000 Americans have tragically died from COVID-19 in the United States. In Riverside County, California, 1,136 have died and 56,201 people have been infected.

We have record-breaking unemployment in our Nation, with 13.7 percent unemployment in Riverside County.

They are our family, our neighbors, our friends. My constituents are struggling, and they urgently need relief. The Senate must get their act together. Their delay in stalling is a shame, and to make matters worse, their skinny-aid excuse of a proposal is much worse than a day late and a dollar short.

In fact, it has been 125 days since the House passed the HEROES Act. They must meet the HEROES Act at least halfway to provide another round of stimulus checks, extend unemployment benefits, small business support, and money for local and State governments to pay for essential services, like for police, firefighters, and teachers.

The Senate must act. The Senate must step up and bring this legislation for a vote. Meet us halfway to slow the spread and save lives as quickly and safely as possible. We need the HEROES Act for the people.

#### ABRAHAM ACCORDS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, for our friends and allies in Israel, the Abraham Accords are the first agreement with a neighboring Arab country since 1994. Peace agreements between Israel, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates bring a significant shift in the balance of power in the Middle East, and strengthens the American position against Iran, which is a leading sponsor of terror in the world.

Thanks to President Trump's bold vision for American foreign policy, we have rebuilt trust with our regional partners and show a united front against the oppressive regime in Tehran.

After decades of division in the Middle East, the Abraham Accords will lay the foundation for peace and prosperity in the region for decades to come. Normalized relations across the region will accelerate growth by expanding diplomatic, economic, and financial ties.

Mr. Speaker, there is much to be optimistic about, these recent historic Abraham Accords will bring a new wave of peace and prosperity in the Middle East.

#### HEROES ACT AND THE PEOPLE

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, more than 4 months ago, the House passed the HEROES Act, legislation that protects our HEROES on the front line of this pandemic, our police officers, firefighters, healthcare workers, sanitation workers, it provides stimulus payments for up to \$6,000 per family, extends unemployment benefits of \$600 per week through January, and gets hazard pay and much-needed resources to frontline workers.

This bill has sat on my MITCH MCCONNELL's desk since then.

In the meantime, tens of millions of Americans are out of work with unemployment levels four times higher than they were before this pandemic. More than a million layoffs and State and local budget cuts that are crippling services for those who need them the most. A total of 6.3 million Americans have been infected and nearly 200,000 have died.

Mr. Speaker, instead of voting on the HEROES Act, the Senate Republicans put forward their own bill that didn't come close to addressing the problems we face: The economic catastrophe and the public health crisis.

The American people deserve better. They need help. They deserve a Senate and Republicans in the Senate that work for them, and a President who tells them the truth.

Rest assured, Democrats are going to continue fighting for all those that our Republican colleagues in the Senate and that President Trump have left behind.

#### WE THE PEOPLE

(Mr. NORMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is a special day in which we pause to cherish the bedrock of our union that is the Constitution.

The great experiment that is this Nation rests upon the spirit that Madison enshrined in this document. It is the